

Attorney Docket No: 40124/05301 (I 7549/KK)

In the Drawings:

Please amend the drawings as follows:

Applicants have submitted replacement drawings for figures 1 and 4. (See Attached "Replacement Sheets", Fig. 1; Fig. 4.) Applicants have also provided annotated drawings, showing the changes made from the prior drawings. (See Attached "Annotated Marked-Up Drawings", Fig. 1; Fig. 4.)

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REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

The abstract and the drawings have been amended. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 4 and 6-9 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 2, 4 and 6-9 are now pending in this application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that that all of the pending claims are allowable.

II. DRAWINGS OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the grounds that "the cross hatching for the guide element and the lever adapter should correspond to the symbol for plastic as required by 37 CFR 1.84(n)." (See 12/26/07 Office Action, p. 2.) Applicants have submitted corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.12(d). As the Examiner will ascertain, the drawings have been amended to incorporate a distinct cross hatching for indicate that the "guide element" and "lever adapter" portions of the device are composed of plastic. The cross hatching pattern chosen is one that employs a distinct "thin-line, thick-line" pattern. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

III. SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to the abstract on the grounds that it was not previously provide in the proper language and format. (See 12/26/07 Office Action, p. 3.) Applicants have amended the abstract to conform to the proper language and format requirements as requested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants submit that the objection to the abstract should be withdrawn.

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IV. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to the language in claim 1, stating that the phrase “adjustable in length *and/or* inclination” is confusing. (See 12/26/07 Office Action, p. 3.) Although claim 1 has been cancelled, rendering this objection moot, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 1 into claims 4 and 6. Therefore, as the Examiner will ascertain claims 4 and 6 have been amended to prevent any such confusion.

The Examiner has objected to the language in claim 7, stating that the phrase “the first and second clamping plate element” should read “the first and second clamping plate *elements*”. (See 12/26/07 Office Action, p. 4.) Applicants have amended Claim 7 as recommended by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the language in claim 8, stating that the phrase “one clamping ramp” should read “*the* clamping ramp”. (See 12/26/07 Office Action, p. 4.) Applicants have amended Claim 8 as recommended by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the language in claim 9, stating that: the phrase “fixed in axial direction” should read “fixed in *an* axial direction”; that the phrase “adjustable in length *and/or* position” is confusing; and also that the phrase “*are/is* adjustable” is likewise confusing. (See 12/26/07 Office Action, p. 4.) Applicants have amended the language in claim 9 to read “fixed in *an* axial direction”, in the relevant portion, as recommended by the Examiner. Applicants have also amended claim 9 by eliminating the term “and/or”. Finally, Applicants have amended claim 9 by replacing the term “are/is” with the term “is”.

Thus, in view of the above amendments, the objections to the claims should be withdrawn.

V. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner stated that claim 4 and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a

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rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (See 12/26/07 Office Action, p. 10.)

Applicants have amended claim 4 by incorporating all the limitations provided in, the now cancelled, claims 1 and 3. Therefore, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating all the limitations of its previous base claim 1 and intervening claim 3. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 4 is allowable. Because claims 2 and 7-9 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 4, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Applicants have amended claim 6 by incorporating all the limitations provided in, the now cancelled, claims 1 and 5. Therefore, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating all the limitations of its previous base claim 1 and intervening claim 5. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 6 is allowable.

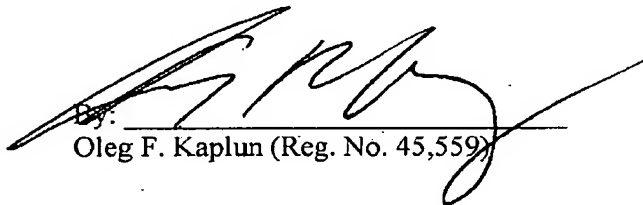
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CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the now pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 14, 2007


By: _____
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Appl. No. 10/544,269

Amdt. Dated March 14, 2008

Reply to Office Action of Dec. 26, 2007

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

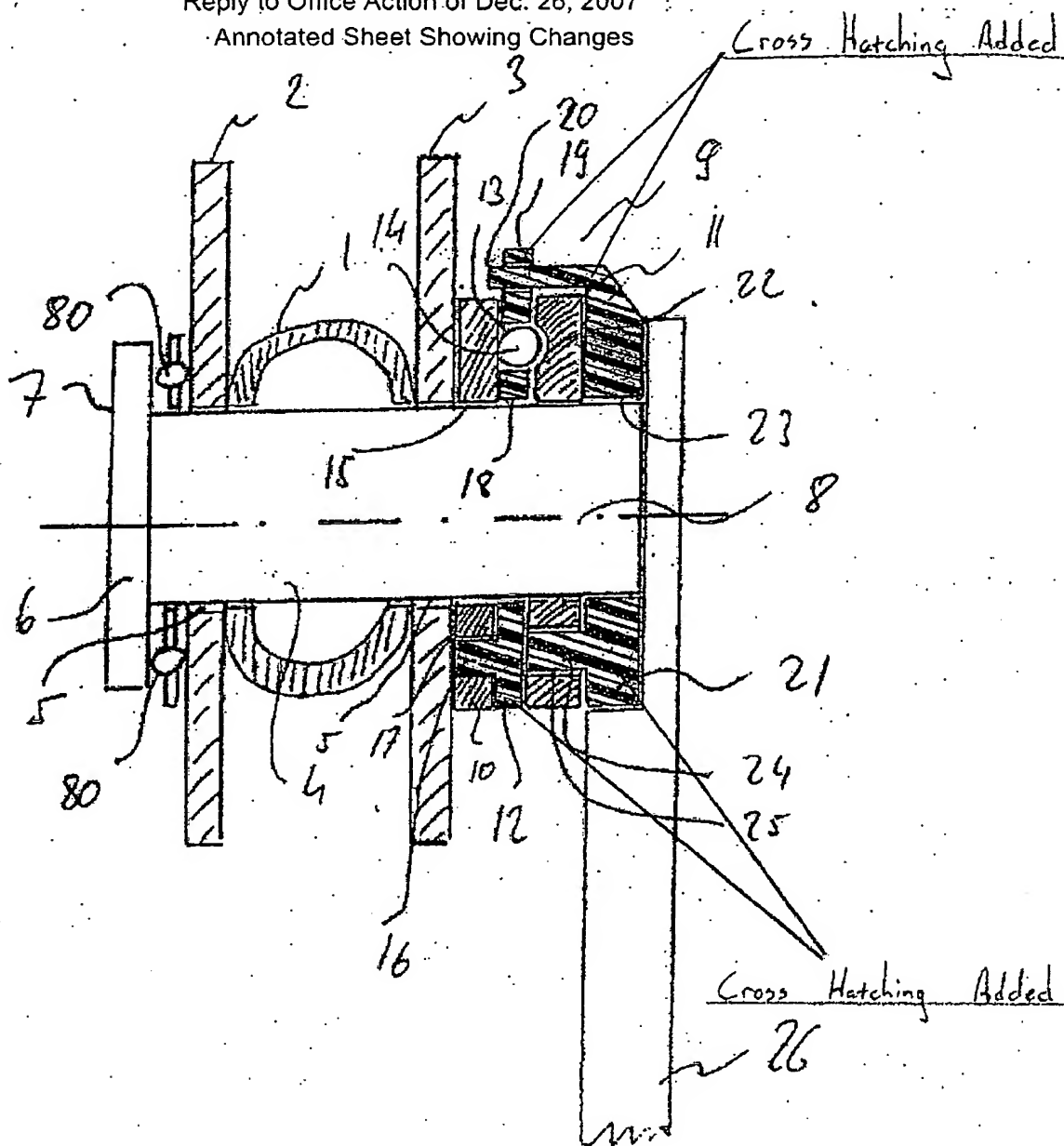


Fig. 1

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Reply to Office Action of Dec. 26, 2007

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

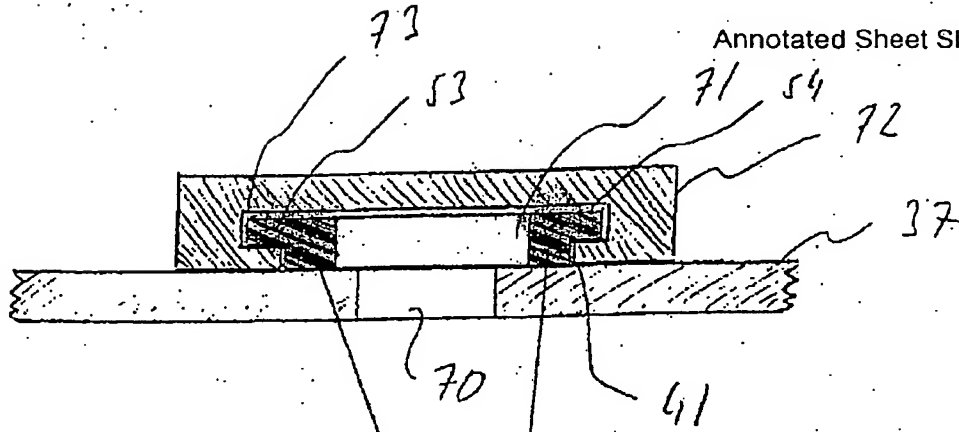


Fig. 4

Cross Hatching Added